



**Florida House of Representatives**  
**Representative Debbie Mayfield**  
**District 80**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**REP. MAYFIELD'S SCIENCE BILL PASSES ON  
HOUSE FLOOR**

*Representative Debbie Mayfield's bill will replace the FCAT science with a mandatory Biology I end of course examination to measure a student's aptitude.*

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TALLAHASSEE, FL- Today the Florida House unanimously passed HB 534, sponsored by Representative Debbie Mayfield. This critical piece of education reform will help teachers and students, replacing the FCAT science with an end of course examination in Biology I. Currently, students are required to take the FCAT Science in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, but the student's grade does not count toward high school graduation or their overall grade.

Rep. Mayfield said of the current system: **"The FCAT is a good tool to hold both teachers and students accountable for their performance. However, we do our students a disservice when we require they be tested on subjects that are not taught all year long."**

On the impact of the bill to Florida's students, Mayfield said: **"As a mother of three children who attend public school, I want my kids to be taught critical subjects like biology. In order for our children to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, they must have a grasp of not only reading and math, but science as well. A year's worth of Biology will help students learn material necessary for college or the workforce."**

On the effects of the proposed reform, Mayfield replied: **"By replacing the FCAT science, teachers can now focus on teaching their science material continually throughout the year. This bill also helps free up more time for teachers to focus teaching their subjects and not teaching a test."**

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